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NUMBER 61

*Newsletter*

APRIL 1975

## "Survival" Issue At May 8th Meeting

"NOT SINCE 1963 WHEN OUR ASSOCIATION ANTICIPATED AND EVENTUALLY RESOLVED THE SEWAGE DISPOSAL PROBLEM, HAS THE VERY SURVIVAL OF 'SEATTLE'S OLD AND COLORFUL HOUSEBOAT COLONY' BEEN IN QUESTION."

THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF A POLICY STATEMENT BY THE FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN ISSUING THE OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE 13TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

IT WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 8TH AT ST. PATRICK'S PARISH HALL, EAST BROADWAY & EDGAR ST. STARTING AT 7:45 P.M. THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL FLOATING HOME OWNERS AND RESIDENTS. NON-MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

"TODAY A NEW SITUATION IS RAPIDLY COMING INTO BEING," THE POLICY STATEMENT SAYS. IT COULD BE SAID THAT THE FUTURE IS ON OUR VERY DOORSTEP. UNDER THE STATE SHORELINES MANAGEMENT ACT—THE MASTER PROGRAM NOW BEING DEVELOPED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE TOUGH FEDERAL REGULATIONS OF NAVIGABLE WATERS, LIMITATIONS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER WILL BE IMPOSED ON ALL WHO USE THIS FRAGILE AND FINITE RESOURCE.

"IN THE LAKE UNION AND PORTAGE BAY AREA CONTROLS ARE VITAL IF THE GENERALLY AGREED UPON OBJECTIVE OF AN "ACTIVE WORKING LAKE WITH A DIVERSIFIED MARINE ENVIRONMENT" IS TO BE REALIZED. FLOATING HOMES IN SEATTLE WILL BE LIMITED TO THIS AREA WHERE THEY COMPRISE A UNIQUE AND HISTORIC COMMUNITY.

"EVEN NOW THIS COMMUNITY IS FEELING THE IMPACT AND IS CONFRONTED WITH THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM AN UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND FOR FLOATING HOMES. TO PUT IT MILDLY THE DEMAND FAR EXCEEDS THE SUPPLY.

"UNDER THE 'BALANCE OF USES', CONTEMPLATED IN THE SEATTLE MASTER PROGRAM, ONLY A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL MOORAGES FOR NEW FLOATING HOMES WILL COME INTO BEING. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FLOATING HOMES WILL EVER EXCEED THE 1962 LEVEL. SIMPLY STATED THIS MEANS THAT THE TIME OF "NO GROWTH" IS NOT A PROBLEM OF THE FUTURE BUT THE REALITY OF TODAY.

"THERE NEEDS TO BE A COMMUNITY AWARENESS THAT IF ECONOMIC FORCES ARE ALLOWED TO ROAM UNCHECKED THE ONLY "RE-DEVELOPMENT" AREA WILL BE THE 'OLD AND COLORFUL HOUSEBOAT COLONY WE ORGANIZED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE.

"FORTUNATELY OUR COMMUNITY HAS THE POWER TO SHAPE ITS FUTURE. WE HAVE DONE SO IN THE PAST. WE CAN MAINTAIN A CHERISHED WAY OF LIFE THROUGH ORDERLY CHANGE WITH NEW AND OLD MAKING UP THAT UNIQUE DIVERSITY WHICH HAS HISTORICALLY CHARACTERIZED OUR COMMUNITY. OR WE CAN SIT IDLY BY AND SEE HARSH ECONOMIC FORCES, IN THE HOPES OF GREATER PROFIT, TRANSFORM AN 'HISTORIC COMMUNITY' INTO EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL COMPOUNDS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE LUXURY, OVERWATER, HIGH-RISE STRUCTURES WHICH ARE NOW FORBIDDEN.

**"WE BELIEVE EVERY FLOATING HOME RESIDENT SHOULD HEAR AND TAKE PART IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TO BE GIVEN AT THE MAY 8TH MEETING. THIS REPORT WILL INCLUDE AN EXPLANATION OF THE NEW REGULATIONS PROPOSED UNDER THE SEATTLE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL PRESENT SOME PROTECTIVE MEASURES. OUT OF FREE AND FRANK DISCUSSION SHOULD COME SOME WELL DEFINED "GOALS & POLICIES" TO GUIDE US INTO THE FUTURE.**

**"SOMETIMES IT HELPS TO LOOK BACKWARD. IN THE EARLY 1960'S IT WAS THE 'CONVENTIONAL WISDOM' THAT HOUSEBOATS WERE A QUIANT BUT ARCHAIC WAY OF LIFE AND AN UNECONOMIC USE OF PROPERTY AND WOULD HAVE TO GIVE WAY TO PROGRESS. IT DID NOT HAPPEN. WE BELIEVE IT DID NOT HAPPEN BECAUSE IN ORGANIZING ITS OWN ASSOCIATION, FLOATING HOME FOLK HAD A WELL DEVELOPED SENSE OF ENLIGHTENED SELF INTEREST.**

**"WE BELIEVE THAT SPIRIT IS ALIVE AND WELL IN 1975. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE VIVIDLY DEMONSTRATED IN THE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS ON MAY 8TH."**

### **CURE SOUGHT FOR LAKE UNION "SPEED LANE" HEADACHE**

The Floating Homes Association has petitioned the City Council for amendments to the Harbor Code to eliminate the hazards created by vessels making high-speed, U-turns in the designated test lane at the North end of Lake Union. In 1973 when the Council was considering the Ordinance re-locating the test lane there was considerable support to make it one way, i.e. east-west. This, however, was not considered to be practical.

In its communication to the Council the Association points out that a "a serious problem has been created by vessels making high-speed, U-turns at the end of the test lane. This creates dangerous wake and water turbulence. As recently as March 14 there was property damage to floating homes in the 2200 and 2300 blocks on Fairview Ave. E. The 50-foot cruiser responsible could not be identified." The Association has proposed that the Council consider amendments along the following lines.

- a. Water speed at turns shall not exceed four (4) knots.
- b. The Ordinance shall spell out that vessels using the test lane are legally responsible for their own wake.
- c. Commercial boating firms using the test lane shall keep a company log listing (1) name and number of vessel being tested, (2) time of test runs, day and date (3) name of the employee in charge of the vessel being tested. This information to be made available to the Harbor Police or any interested party on request.

The Council was told that there is an apparent lack of awareness that except for the test lane the legal speed in all of Lake Union and Portage Bay is seven (7) knots. Except for the Ship Canal there are few if any marker signs. On Lake Union it would be necessary to use private docks and houseboat moorages to properly place such signs. It is felt that this problem could be solved by cooperative action between the Harbor Police, Engineering Dept., Lake Union Assn. and the Floating Homes Assn.

### **HERE IS A PROGRESS REPORT ON GAS WORKS PARK**

More areas of the Gas Works park will be open to the public and two "parklets" will be constructed this summer under the I-5 Freeway bridge, Richard Haag, landscape architect has informed the Floating Homes Association.

The destructive phase of the work has been completed," Mr. Haag says, "and the great mound viewpoint and interpretative center on the west side are now open to the public. The first phase of construction is approximately 60% complete and we hope to open the eastern portion in June.

"The master utilities, sewer, water and electrical trunks have been installed. All structural improvements have been completed in the two recycled buildings. The deck, porches, loft and balcony have been completed and the machines have been cleaned, primed and painting has begun. The next work will be the roofing of the boiler house (picnic shed) and the exhauster building (children's play barn) with translucent panels. This phase will include the addition of a new comfort station near the picnic area in the eastern portion of the site.

"It is anticipated that a second phase of construction will begin in the late spring. This will include the northeast parking lot, entrance pavement, some landscaping of the picnic area and improvements to the lake wall and to the generating towers. The polluted soil will be further improved with another seeding and fertilizing."

Mr. Haag has been invited to present the Gas Works park "story" to the Harvard Graduate School of Design, the Pennsylvania Graduate School of Planning and to the Industrial Archeological Society (Baltimore) during April.

**SPIRIT OF 1776:** "What do we mean by the American Revolution? Do we mean the American War? The Revolution was in the hearts and minds of the people; a change in the principles, opinions, sentiments and affections of the people was the real American Revolution." John Adams, (1735-1826).

**SPIRIT OF 1976?:** "A society based on advertising and selling goods is actually selling its people into the bondage of material greed which has brought us to the present crisis." Marya Mannes, author, critic.

## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS MAY 8th

Discussion of a comprehensive Executive Committee report on the future of floating homes and the election of officers will feature the 13th annual business meeting of the Floating Homes Association on Thursday, May 8th. The meeting, starting at 7:45 p.m., will be held in the St. Patrick parish hall (basement) at East Broadway and Edgar Sts.

Prior to the May 8th meeting nominations may be made by phone or letter to the Association. They will also be open from the floor at the meeting. Voting will be by secret ballot. All members in good standing are eligible for election. Those nominated must agree to serve if elected.

Offices to be filled are: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Trustee (five year term) and three Executive Committee members for one year terms. Delphine Haley, Recording Secretary, 2822 Boyer E., has announced she will be unable to continue to serve. Incumbents who have accepted nomination are: Richard Wagner, president, 2770 Westlake N.; James J. Donnette, vice president, 2331 Fairview E.; Todd Warmington, trustee, 2339 Fairview E.; Susan Drum, 2219 Fairview E.; Peter Henault, 1213 E. Shelby and Greg Smith, 2017 Fairview, executive committee.

Holdover trustees are: Mack Hopkins, 1213 E. Shelby; Bill Koskie, 2420 Westlake N.; Ilene MacIntyre, 1213 E. Shelby and John Southern, 2207 Fairview. The positions of Treasurer (Julie North) and Administrative Secretary (Terry Pettus) are filled by the Executive Committee.

Past presidents are: George Neale (1962-1964), Esther Carhart (1964-1966) Kenneth Kennedy (1966-68) Robert Brown (1968-1969) Clara Kennedy (1969-1971) and John Southern (1971-1974).

## THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING AND SUNDRY OTHER HAPPENINGS

In these days for the price of anything to go down is not only a rarity but almost subversive. However we have chalked up a breakthrough (downward) in homeowner insurance. This information is available to members . . . As almost everybody knows this NEWSLETTER does not accept advertising but we do make referrals for products and services. What we ask in return is fair treatment for our members. One of our old business friends is the American Tar Co., 1700 N. Northlake Way (632-0828) which handles all manner of roofing materials and wood preservatives. One of its more popular products is the colored aluminum roof coatings. Your Association membership card will get you a substantial discount. If you have a particular problem or want information ask for Bill Burnside. . . . And yet another firm, who has been serving houseboat folk these many years, is Jerry Lewis Paints, Fairview N. & Yale. Manager Gary Tletz says the store is still giving discounts to customers with an Association membership card.

"NORTHWEST PACKET", official publication of Northwest Seaport, has an illustrated story (March, 1975) on Dick Wagner's fascinating "Old Boat House" which he operates in conjunction with a floating home moorage at 2770 Westlake N. Dick, an architect, has long been hooked on wood and sail. He imports his fleet of row boats and gaft rigged sails from Norway and they are for rent or sale. The big problem with most commercial craft, says Dick is that they get to be "more and more ugly." The big news from Northwest Seaport is that late May will see the official opening of its "permanent home" in Kirkland. For the very first time all three of its historic ships, the Wawona, Lightship Relief and tug Arthur Foss will be together for public viewing and visiting. If you are interested in membership and participating in the activities of Northwest Seaport, write Box 395, Kirkland, Wa. 98033.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer reports (3/30/75) the first Boeing building on the Duwamish site (Plant 1, Circa 1917) may fall to the wrecking ball as have so many structures even though placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Boeing Corp. sold the property to the Port of Seattle who wants to use the site for a ship container staging area. Our Association finds this a bit ironic as we tried, without success to save an earlier Boeing building (1915) at Fairview E. and Roanoke on Lake Union. In case you want to look, this site is now a concrete island on which the condominium Roanoke Reef was to have been built. But here is where Bill Boeing started the whole thing with small float planes which evolved into you know what. It was here that in 1927 the first air mail left Seattle. When and if, we get a mini-park at the foot of Roanoke it would be good to at least have a marker.

The boating industry has formed a "task force" to do something about the lack of moorages in the "boating capital of the world." As you can well guess sales are hurting. Shilshole Marina (operated by the Port of Seattle) has a staggering waiting list with 85% of applicants for sailing craft. Since 1969 there has been survey after survey to find out what everybody knows—there is and has been a shortage of moorages. One survey recommended that the Lake Union area furnish a hundred additional slips per year. Since that recommendation hit the hopper the number of Lake Union moorages declined being replaced by three large buildings and a concrete platform for another one. But for some city restrictions plus the Shorelines Management Act there would be even fewer.

If and when the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration moves bag and ships to Sand Point, many on Lake Union will hate to lose our good neighbors. That beautiful fleet has added something to our Lake environment but not without a price. Remember the massive land fill and the elimination of a 75-unit houseboat moorage in 1962?? . . . Another governmental asset promises to stay with us unless the C.I.A. can figure some way to move the Ballard (pardon, General Chittenden) Locks. The genial Lockmaster reports that the lakes (both of them) will be at the summer high water mark on May 15th. This is two feet above the controlled "winter low." But Mother Nature also has a lot of control over the water level. For example during a long, hot summer (wipe that smile off your face) the level could drop a foot but 90% of that would be due to evaporation. It was in 1962-63 when the Lockmaster lost control, so to speak, and the level dropped three feet. So don't knock our clouds and rain otherwise our floating homes would probably no longer be floating. Thought you would like to know.

## CITY COUNCIL PREPARING ITS DRAFT SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM

The Seattle City Council ended an unprecedented series of public hearings April 2nd and is now preparing its own draft of a Seattle Shorelines Master Program which sometime this spring will be made public for comment before being submitted to the State Department of Ecology for its approval. The Council started its public hearings in December and since the first of the year has held two sessions weekly at one of which it took "advisory" votes on specific issues.

Seattle is now in the final phase of drafting and adopting a "master program" which is required under the Shorelines Management Act which went into effect June 1, 1973. Two years ago Mayor Uhlman named a Citizens Advisory Committee which prepared "Goals & Policies", now adopted and Draft No. 1 of the proposed master program. This was submitted to the City Planning Commission which held hearings and conferences over an eight-month period at the end of which it submitted Draft No. 4 to the City Council.

A major portion of the public hearing time was taken over by a battery of attorneys representing the well organized opposition--the Western Environmental Trades Council (WETA). The hearings were marked by dogged objections to virtually all proposed controls and threats of lawsuits. The period has also been marked by what City Hall observers say is the most massive lobbying campaign ever directed at proposed municipal legislation. (Five of the nine City Council seats are to be filled at an election this fall. They are held by: Council President Sam Smith, Phyllis Lamphere, John Miller, Tim Hill and Paul Kraabel, appointed to succeed Bruce Chapman).

WETA has raised a sizeable war chest to oppose master programs and to seek crippling amendments to the Shoreline Act in the current Session of the State Legislature. In February Lake Union property owners were solicited for contributions of \$250.00 and up in letters sent out by WETA finance chairman, William B. Woods who is Chairman of the Board of the Washington Natural Gas Co. These letters included a "Fact Sheet" which the Department of Community Development said was inaccurate and misleading.

The corporate make-up of WETA is sprinkled with a number of union officials, mainly connected with the Building Trades. The WETA letterhead has an impressive list of corporations including the following:

Northwest Steel Rolling Mills, Weyerhaeuser, International Paper Co., Seattle First National Bank, Burlington Northern R.R., I.T.T. Rayonier, The Bunker Co., General Telephone Co., Transamerica Title Insurance, Rainier National Bank, Foster & Kleiser, Seaboard Lumber Co., Western International Hotels, Standard Oil of California.

Tri-City Board of Realtors, Associated Sand & Gravel, Inland Empire Chapter, Associated General Contractors, Reynold Metals, Simpson Timber Co., Pope & Talbot Development Corp., Washington State Cattlemen Association, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp., Aluminum Corporation of America, U & I Sugar Corp. and Scott Paper Co

### *Here Is A "Survival Insurance Policy"*



2329 Fairview East - Seattle 98102  
Phones: EA 5-1132 or EA 9-1517  
(after 11:00 a.m.)

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DUES \$12.00 PER YEAR

- Covers all the adults (18 years or over) in the household. If more than one membership card is needed list names below.
- Dues payments cover the 12 months following the time of joining.

*Make checks payable to Floating Homes Association, Inc.*

#### PURPOSE

The Floating Homes Association, Inc., is a mutual benefit society chartered in 1962 under the laws of the State of Washington as a non-profit corporation to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To protect the interests of Seattle's old and colorful Houseboat Colony.
2. To establish and work for adequate standards of health, safety and attractiveness for all houseboats and their moorages.
3. To cooperate with all like-minded persons and organizations to perpetuate floating homes as a unique and pleasant way of life.
4. To work with all governmental and civic agencies for the conservation, preservation, multiple-use and beautification of Seattle's inland waters and shorelands.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$12.00

Bill me